GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2895
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
FLOOR PRICE
N.N. KRISHNADAS

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agro producers who are being protected by providing floor price by the Government; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to save paddy farmers by providing floor price and other facilities for the last two years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (paddy, wheat and coarse cereals), Jute Corporation of India (Jute), Cotton Corporation of India (cotton), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (oilseeds and pulses) and Tobacco Board (tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. During the current kharif season 2003-04, the Government has procured 103.83 lakh tonnes of rice, 5.97 lakh tonnes of coarse grains and 1.00 lakh tonnes of urad. A quantity of 2088 tonnes of moong has also been procured. A quantity of 17.36 lakh quintals of jute (9.64 lakh bales) has also been procured. During the rabi marketing year 2003-04, a total quantity of 158.00 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured.

(b): The Government has taken several steps to step up procurement of paddy in the non- traditional States during the previous kharif marketing season 2002-03 and the current marketing season 2003-04. In order to reduce the hardship of farmers and to avoid distress sale of paddy, the Government has also been time to time granting relaxations in specification for paddy. The Government has also been encouraging the States to take up the scheme of Decentralised Procurement of Foodgrains for encouraging local procurement to the maximum extent thereby extending the benefits of the MSP to local farmers.